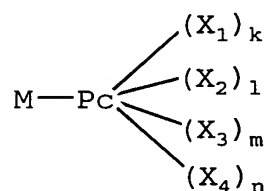


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

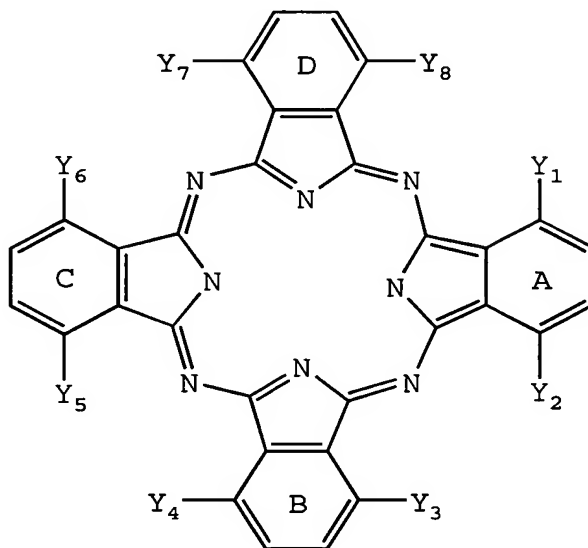
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A dye mixture comprising a plurality of different dyes represented by the following formula (I):



Formula (II):

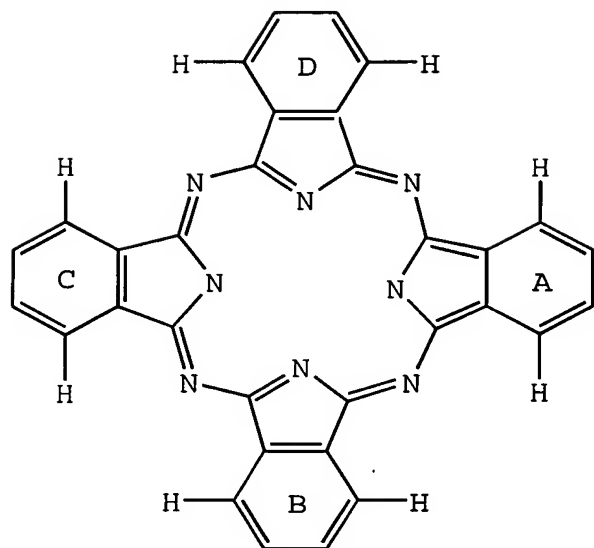


wherein M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal atom or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof; Pc represents a (k+l+m+n)-valent phthalocyanine nucleus represented by formula (II); X₁, X₂, X₃ and X₄ each independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of -SO-R₁, -SO₂-R₁, -SO₂NR₂R₃, -CONR₂R₃, -CO₂-R₁ and CO-R₁ and ~~at least one~~

~~substituent represented by X_1 , at least one substituent represented by X_2 , at least one substituent represented by X_3 and at least one substituent represented by X_4 are present in respective rings~~ each of four benzene rings {A, B, C and D in formula (II)} of the phthalocyanine nucleus has at its β -position at least one substituent of X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 , provided that the case where X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 all are the same is excluded and at least one of X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 has an ionic hydrophilic group as a substituent; R_1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R_2 represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R_3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; k , l , m and n represent an integer of $0 < k < 8$, an integer of $0 < l < 8$, an integer of $0 \leq m < 8$ and an integer of $0 \leq n < 8$, provided that k and/or l and/or m and/or n each independently represents a number satisfying $4 \leq k + l + m + n \leq 8$; and Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 , Y_4 , Y_5 , Y_6 , Y_7 and Y_8 each independently represents a hydrogen atom and/or a monovalent substituent and these monovalent substituents each may further have a substituent.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The dye mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phthalocyanine nucleus represented by formula (II) is represented by the following formula (III):

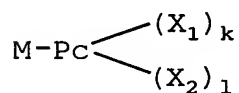
Formula (III):



Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The dye mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the dye represented by formula (I), X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 each independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of $-SO-R_1$, $-SO_2-R_1$ and $-SO_2NR_2R_3$, ~~and at least one substituent represented by X_1 , at least one substituent represented by X_2 , at least one substituent represented by X_3 and at least one substituent represented by X_4 are present in~~ respective rings of four benzene rings {A, B, C and D in formula (II) or (III)} of the phthalocyanine nucleus.

Claim 4 (Original): The dye mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (IV):

Formula (IV):



wherein M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal atom or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof; Pc represents a (k+l)-valent phthalocyanine nucleus represented by formula (III); X_1 and X_2 each independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of -SO-R₁, -SO₂-R₁ and -SO₂NR₂R₃ and at least one substituent represented by X_1 and at least one substituent represented by X_2 are present in respective rings of four benzene rings {A, B, C and D in formula (III)} of the phthalocyanine nucleus, provided that X_1 and X_2 are not the same and at least one of X_1 and X_2 has an ionic hydrophilic group as a substituent; R₁ represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R₂ represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R₃ represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; k and l represent an integer of $0 < k < 8$ and an integer of $0 < l < 8$, provided that k and/or l each independently represents a number satisfying $4 \leq k+l \leq 8$.

Claim 5 (Original): The dye mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein in formulae (I) and (II), at least one group of X_1 to X_4 and Y_1 to Y_8 has at least one asymmetric carbon.

Claim 6 (Original): An ink comprising the dye mixture claimed in claim 1.

Claim 7 (Original): An ink as claimed in claim 6, which is used as an ink for ink jet recording.

Claim 8 (Original): An ink jet recording method comprising forming an image using the ink claimed in claim 7 on an image-receiving material comprising a support having thereon an ink image-receiving layer containing a white inorganic pigment particle.

Claim 9 (Original): A method for improving ozone resistance of a colored image material, comprising forming an image using the ink claimed in claim 7.